

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Over the last several decades, congress has caved in to the interests of the moneyed lobbyists from Big Media, and the disastrous consequences of these actions are only beginning to be felt, but are clearly visible in the illegal, immoral, anti-competitive and anti-community activities of Clear Channel Communications. The public is already losing out because of the 1996 law, and these losses are accelerating. The quality and diversity of our public media are declining sharply, and are controlled by fewer and fewer huge companies.

The public ownership of U.S. airwaves needs to benefit the public, not given away to megacorporations for a few small bribes. The rules protecting the rights of U.S. citizens should NOT be relaxed, but restored.